Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MADRID 08271 241938Z

61
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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R 241854Z NOV 75
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INFO SECDEF
COMNAVACTS ROTA
CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK
COMSUBLANT NORFOLK

S E C R E T MADRID 8271

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, SP, US
SUBJECT: EXTENDED OPERATING CYCLE PROGRAM (EOC) AT ROTA

REF: CNO DTG 221805Z NOV 75

1. WE RECOGNIZE THAT IF THE EOC PROGRAM IS TO PROCEED ON SCHEDULE AT ROTA THERE IS NEED TO MOVE AHEAD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW YEAR. DELAY TO THIS POINT HAS BEEN BASED ESSENTIALLY ON THE BELIEF THAT THE GOS MIGHT WELL RESPOND TO A REQUEST DURING THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS BY SAYING THAT THIS WOULD BE DEALT WITH IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND THAT SOME ADDITIONAL US QUID MIGHT THEN BE REQUESTED IN RETURN. THIS REMAINS OUR JUDGMENT. THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE STILL GOING ON, AND AGREEMENT ON THE LANGUAGE OF A SUPPLEMENTARY TEXT ON FACILITIES HAS NOT BEEN ACHIEVED.

2. IT IS PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE OF PRESSURE OF OTHER EVENTS ON THE GOS THAT NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS SINCE EARLY OCTOBER. STILL, FRANCO'S ILLNESS BROUGHT WITH IT HEIGHTENED EXPECTATION--ENCOURAGED BY THE US AND SPANISH PRESS,
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PAGE 02 MADRID 08271 241938Z

AND (IN PRIVATE) BY VARIOUS SPANISH OFFICIALS--THAT THE DETAILS

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

OF THE AGREEMENT AS THEY NOW STAND MAY BE CHANGED IN SOME RESPECTS. THERE IS NO OFFICIAL INDICATION YET THAT THIS WILL

BE THE CASE, OR, IF SO, WHICH ELEMENTS THE GOS MAY SEEK TO ALTER. WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIALS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ARE SPECULATING THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS MAY NOT START UP AGAIN IN A SERIOUS WAY UNTIL AFTER THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS, BUT THAT, TOO, IS ONLY SPECULATION AT THIS POINT.

3. SINCE THE LAST NEGOTIATING SESSIONS IN MID-OCTOBER, THE SPANISH NAVY--WHICH NOW STANDS TO DERIVE NOTHING OF HIGH VISIBILITY IN US MILITARY ASSISTANCE UNDER THE NEW AGREEMENT--HAS MADE MORE SPECIFIC ITS DESIRE FOR A US NAVY UNDERTAKING TO IMPROVE JOINT-USED FACILITIES AT ROTA AS PART OF THE QUID FOR THE NEW AGREEMENT. IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO EXPECT THAT THE SPANISH NAVY'S WISH LIST WOULD BECOME INVOLVED IN ANY EARLY DISCUSSION OF THE EOC PROGRAM. CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN, THEREFORE, AS TO WHETHER, IN REQUESTING ETC FACILITIES AT ROTA, WE SHOULD NOT OFFER TO PROVIDE AT ROTA SOMETHING OF MORE DIRECT INTEREST TO THE SPANISH NAVY WHICH MIGHT BE OF LASTING VALUE. THIS WOULD CERTAINLY MAKE THE REQUEST MORE LIKELY OF ACCEPTANCE AND MIGHT ALSO HELP TO HOLD THE SPANISH TO THE PRESENT UNDERSTANDING ALLOWING THE SSBN'S TO REMAIN DURING THE LIFE OF THE NEW AGREEMENT.

4. AS FOR THE NATURE OF AN INITIAL APPROACH TO THE GOS, WE AGREE THAT THIS MIGHT BE MADE TO THE SPANISH BASE COMMANDER--NOT SO MUCH BECAUSE IT MIGHT PRODUCE A MORE FAVORABLE DECISION (WHICH WILL BE MADE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF THE SPANISH NAVY) AS TO MINIMIZE THE IMPORT OF ANY INITIAL TURNDOWN. IN MAKING ANY SUCH APPOACH, WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO DRAW ON THE GOOD WILL

ENGENDERED BY THE RECENT EMERGENCY PROVISION TO THE SPANISH NAVY OF 105MM AMMUNITION FROM US WAR RESERVE STOCKS AT ROTA.

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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